

From: Matthew Gessner
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 10:30am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Greetings,

I'm writing to express my feelings on the proposed Microsoft Settlement. Personally, I think that ANY settlement that does not involve the breakup of Microsoft, in whole or in part, will not be a just settlement for consumers, corporations, or the various governments involved. Failing to act against Microsoft at this time puts peoples' jobs and lives at risk. My reasons are below:

Microsoft has used its monopoly power to push dangerous software on millions of unknowing users. The most recent of these incidents centers on Microsoft Windows XP, which, as touted by Microsoft, is the most secure version of Windows. However, it came to light only a few months after its release that Windows XP had a security hole in it so large as to allow anyone on the internet to take over a Windows XP machine connected to the internet.

How can anyone NOT see that this company simply does NOT care about the products it sells (oh, the exception might be a few quality games)? They're aren't motivated to do a better job (to use their word, "innovate" -- WHAT A JOKE!) because their is simply too little competition.

The evidence has been entered in court: when Microsoft senses a product that might compete with theirs, they either a) buy the company producing the product or b) steal key technologies by reverse-engineering the code or c) perform some other possibly unrelated action to undermine the desirability by cutting their own price on a product. Their monopoly power and wealth allow them to undercut other companies' efforts (I won't use the term 'competition' because Microsoft sadly has very little).

Additionally, consider how long before Microsoft has products that are placed into important, everyday use besides the typical PC. With the poor quality of software they produce (which again, is a function of little competition), what are the consequences if Microsoft manages to use its market pressure to put a product in something like a health appliance or an aircraft? I'm not saying they have plans to do that, but Microsoft seems to have a pretty insatiable appetite when it comes to new market opportunities. They've already entered the embedded systems market (systems used typically in control applications, like process control, telecommunications, etc), and that frightens me a great deal.

In summary, Microsoft has continually expressed its lack of respect for consumers by producing poor quality software, and its lack of respect for the law by continual violations of its past agreements. Microsoft needs to be broken into little, manageable pieces, none of which would be large enough to

pose a serious concern to the public. THEN they can see how their "practice" of their so-called "innovation" will take them.

Thank you for your time reading this email.

Regards,

Matthew Gessner

to put the company

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